



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Group Art Unit 1651

AF/16004

In re

Patent Application of

Hassan K. Sreenath

Application No. 09/915,028

Confirmation No.: 7045

Filed: July 25, 2001

Examiner: Prats, Francisco Chandler

"METHOD FOR SIMULTANEOUS
SACCHARIFICATION AND
FERMENTATION OF SPENT CELLULOSE
SAUSAGE CASINGS"

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment in the above-identified application. Applicant claims small entity status. No additional fee is required.

Also enclosed is a Second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and our check in the amount of \$180.00 for the requisite fee.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need to request an extension of time, please consider this a request for the same.

Please charge or credit Deposit Account No. 50-0842 with any shortage or overpayment of the fees associated with this communication. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

I, Leslie Lindsay Smith, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date of my signature.

Leslie Lindsay Smith
Signature

23 June 2003
Date of Signature

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JUN 27 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage on June 23, 2003, as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

By: Leslie Lindsay Smith
Leslie Lindsay Smith
Date: June 23, 2003

13/B
M.G.J
7/7/03
(NE)

Applicant(s): Hassan Sreenath

Docket No.: 96429/9108 US

Serial No.: 09/915,028

Group Art Unit: 1651

Filed: July 25, 2001

Examiner: F. Prats

Confirmation No.: 7045

For: METHOD FOR SIMULTANEOUS SACCHARIFICATION AND
FERMENTATION OF SPENT CELLULOSE SAUSAGE CASINGS

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

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JUN 27 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Box AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, and in response to the Final Office Action mailed April 23, 2003, Applicant requests entry of the amendment, reconsideration on the merits, and allowance of the claims.

DO NOT ENTER
SEP 7-9-03

AMENDMENT

Please replace claim 1 with the following claim:

1. (Amended) A method of converting cellulose in cellulose sausage casings to lactic acid comprising the step of:

treating spent unwashed cellulose sausage casings comprising nitrate or nitrite with cellulase and a lactic acid producing microorganism at essentially the same time under suitable conditions and for a period of time sufficient to allow conversion of at least a portion of the cellulose to lactic acid.